

Supplementary table 1: Description of the 25 excluded patients

Exclusion criteria	Number of patients (%)	Sampling type	Positive PCR	Commentary
No identified underlying condition	8 (32%)	BAL, n=5	2	Treated for nocardiosis, n=2
		Sputum, n=1	1	Treated for nocardiosis
		Lung biopsy, n=1	1	Not treated
		CSF, n=1	0	Lost to follow up
No proven alternative diagnosis or improvement at 6 months without anti- <i>Nocardia</i> treatment	9 (36%)	BAL, n=7	1	*
		CSF, n=2	1†	Received effective antibiotics against <i>Nocardia</i> , n=2
No clinical or radiological signs compatible with nocardiosis	4 (16%)	Sinus, n=1	0	Not treated
		CSF, n=3	1‡	Not treated
No <i>Nocardia</i> PCR on sample and positive culture	4 (16%)	Cutaneous biopsy	NA	<i>Nocardia wallacei</i>
		Sputum		<i>Nocardia wallacei</i> (not treated)
		Pleural puncture		<i>Nocardia cyriacigeorgica</i>
		Protected specimen brush		<i>Nocardia nova</i>

Note: BAL, bronchoalveolar lavage fluid; CSF, cerebrospinal fluid; NA, not available

* One of these patients had positive PCR on the blood sample. The PCR was negative on BAL. The diagnosis of nocardiosis was not retained.

† Man, 46 year-old, HIV positive, cerebral abscess, treated as cerebral toxoplasmosis (serology positive) with pyrimethamine/sulfadiazine (treatment duration =7 weeks) then pyrimethamine/clindamycin, 3 lumbar puncture, 3 *Nocardia* PCR, 1st PCR positive out of 3

‡ Man, 57 year-old, HIV positive, no clinical or radiological (MRI) signs of nocardiosis, lumbar puncture without meningitis, *Nocardia* PCR positive; patient treated with trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole for documented pneumocystosis pneumonia (treatment duration =3 weeks), no PCR in bronchoalveolar lavage

Supplementary table 2: Microbiological workup among the negative control group (N=47)

Microbiological analysis	N (%)
BAL or bronchial aspirate	37 (78.7)
Respiratory virus PCR	23 (48.9)
Mycobacterial culture	34 (72.3)
Lung biopsies	3 (6.3)
Sputum without BAL	3 (6.3)
Non-invasive tests	
Galactomannan antigen	24 (51)
<i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i> PCR	7 (14.8)
β -D-glucan	20 (42.7)
Urinary pneumococcal or <i>Legionella</i> antigen detection (Binax-NOW®)	13 (27.6)
<i>Cryptococcus</i> antigen in plasma	11 (23.4)
Pharyngeal sample for respiratory virus PCR	6 (12.7)
Pharyngeal sample for <i>Chlamydia</i> and <i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i> PCR	1 (2.1)
Cytomegalovirus PCR on blood	5 (10.6)
<i>Toxoplasma</i> PCR on blood	2 (4.2)
Tuberculosis Interferon-Gamma Release Assays	2 (4.2)
Note: BAL, bronchoalveolar lavage fluid	
Of note, 8 patients out of 47 had bacteriological samples cultured for less than two weeks (one of them with a positive PCR)	